

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6858

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5933

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR UR US
SUBJECT: FOUR PAN AM CHARTERS APPROVED

REF: (A) MOSCOW 5846, (B) STATE 95141, (C) MOSCOW 5675

SUMMARY: PAN AM HAS RECEIVED PERMISSION TO FLY FOUR CHARTERS THROUGH MAY 7. SOVIETS, IN TURN, ASKED FOR APPROVAL OF FOUR EXTRA SECTIONS THIS SUMMER. SOVIET DECISION ON REMAINING TWELVE PAN AM CHARTERS DUE NEXT WEEK, AND OUTCOME APPEARS TO HINGE ON PAN AM RESPONSE ON EXTRA SECTIONS FOR AEROFLOT. END SUMMARY.

1. LOCAL PAN AM REP DRAHORAD INFORMED EMBOFF THAT MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SAMORUKHOV) IN A MEETING ON APRIL 29 APPROVED PAN AM CHARTERS ON MAY 2,3,5, AND 7 SO AS NOT TO "COMPLICATE" THE SITUATION FOR PASSENGERS. THE MINISTRY WILL INFORM PAN AMERICAN ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE REMAINING 12 CHARTERS FLIGHTS IN MAY ON EITHER MAY 3 OR 4. DRAHORAD HAD REQUESTED APPROVAL OF THE TOTAL MAY PROGRAM. SAMORUKHOV ALSO INFORMED DRAHORAD THAT AEROFLOT NEW YORK WILL SHORTLY SUBMIT A REQUEST TO PAN AM FOR APPROVAL OF EXTRA SECTIONS TO BE FLOWN JULY 11, AUGUST 22, SEPTEMBER 17, AND OCTOBER 8. HE WOULD "APPRECIATE IT" IF PAN AM WOULD CONSIDER THESE REQUESTS POSITIVELY. SAMORUKHOV, REFERRING TO CALL
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YESTERDAY AT MFA BY E/C COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF (REF A) EXPRESSED "SURPRISE" PAN AM SAW FIT TO INCLUDE THE USG IN A SIMPLE REQUEST BY THE SOVIET SIDE FOR EXTRA SECTIONS.

2. DRAHORAD TOLD EMBOFF SOVIET POSITION WAS "BLACKMAIL" -- IF PAN AM DOES NOT ACCEDE TO THIS SOVIET REQUEST FOR FOUR EXTRA SECTIONS SOVIETS COULD STALL ON REMAINING 12

PAN AM CHARTERS WHILE PUTTING ONUS ON PAN AM FOR NOT
BEING RESPONSIVE TO AEROFLOT. MEANWHILE SOVIETS HAVE NOT FORMALLY
TAKEN A POSITION ON THE REMAINING TWELVE FLIGHTS,
AND DRAHORAD NOW EXPECTS ONE-FOR-ONE REQUESTS FOR EXTRA
SECTIONS WUNTIL ALL THE CHARTERS ARE APPROVED. DRAHORAD
HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO HANDLE THIS NEW CONTINGENCY
AND WILL REFER IT BACK TO PAN AM NEW YORK.

3. COMMENT: IF THE SOVIET TACTIC SUCCEEDS, THEY COULD
RECEIVE 16 OR MORE EXTRA SECTIONS THIS SUMMER. WHILE FINAL
DECISION, OF COURSE, RESTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND PAN AM,
WE THINK IT WOULD BE INADVISABLE TO ACCEDE TO THIS LATEST
DEMAND. WE RECOMMEND THAT A POLICY OF SELECTIVE APPROVAL
ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS BE FOLLOWED WITH RESPECT TO EXTRA
SECTIONS FOR AEROFLOT PROVIDED THAT SOVIETS DO NOT CUT
PAN AM CHARTER PROGRAM.
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